



SHARE GOD'S WORD SHOW GOD'S LOVE SERVE GOD'S WORLD

McFarland Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 23, 2024

Present: Pastor Kelli Smidt, Wayne Corey, Jon Schadeberg, Paul Hundt, Scott Potts, Jane Licht, Erin Kraemer, Sharon Mylrea, Carri Wolff, Doug Buechel, Christina Hughey, Matt Lancaster, Sarah Schutt, treasurer Mike Devine

Devotions:

Doug read a prayer for Ken Brost who recently lost his wife, Eileen. He asked for comfort and peace. Then Doug read a prayer for those of us on the Council. He thanked the Lord for loving each of us and asked for Him to fill our hearts with love, truth, and grace.

Call to order:

Scott opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held April 7.

Wayne moved and Doug seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended to include "Motion carried by written paper ballot, 119 to 2" in the paragraph regarding the motion to accept the call of Pastor Peter Erickson. Motion carried.

Pastor Kelli's Report

Thanks to Doug Buechel for cleaning the font, learning how to change the filter and drafting instructions on this procedure. Thanks also for raking up the seed pods from a tree so the CLM students would not have to play in them. Holy Week was incredible from Palm/Passion Sunday, Reader's Theater to the Triduum - the services were very meaningful. Thanks to all who led those services and to those who prepared food, served food, and cleaned up after Lenten meals. Thanks to the Temporary Worship and Music Committee for helping guide the wonderful midweek Lenten services. The Kid's Chorus final performance last Sunday was beyond wonderful. Thanks to those children who sang "I Just Want to Be a Sheep," and thanks to Deb Nygaard and Chris Landerud for leading this activity. MLC Orientation for new and long-time members will be held Sunday, April 28 and the same class will be held again Tuesday April 30. New members will be received at all three services the weekend of May 11 and 12. First Communion classes for second graders will be held May 1 and the same class will be held again May 4. There will be prayers for these students at all three services the weekend of May 4 and 5. There will be a moment of gratitude and appreciation for Pastor Kirsten Worzala-Dumke at both services Sunday May 12. The Synod Assembly is May 18 so there will be no Saturday service. Pastor Peter's first Sunday with us is May 19. There will be a moment of gratitude for choirs, bells and Rosalie Richardson on May 19. Seed blessing will be part of the children's sermon that day. Baptisms were for Caroline Doll and Paul Hundt. Pastor Kelli was with the family of Mary Nott Swenson during her burial. Keep the family of Eileen Brost in your prayers. Her visitation is Thursday at 10 AM with the service to follow at 11 AM.

Finance Report

Mike said the balance in our checking account is about \$202,000 which is up a bit from March. We paid off \$2000 of our mortgage. Year-to-date giving was short about \$7,000. Easter giving was not reflected in these figures. Year-to-date we have \$120,000 more than expenses because of personnel vacancies. Some of this money will likely be transferred to our maintenance account. Mike discussed the 2024-2025 budget. Staff salaries increased 3%. The budget reflects the new pastor's salary, a new music director but not an A-V coordinator which could be added later. This draft budget first be approved by the Finance Committee at their May meeting before being presented to the Council. We will have budget forums in early July. The Church's annual report must be completed and available to members, two weeks before the annual meeting. Pastor Peter has seen the 2023-2024 budget on our website.

Director of Music Position Description

Sharon said the representatives from choir, bells and praise band met April 3rd with Scott, Jane Blank and herself. They presented their expectations in a written document. Jane will prepare a draft position description that will be presented to stakeholder representatives.

Communications with Pastor Peter

Scott said he has had several phone calls and texts with Pastor Peter who will attend worship with us on May 19, and be in his office on May 20. Scott has sent him our policies, continuing resolutions on committees and our constitution. Rita and Pastor Kelli will help him with basic orientation. Jane read the list of items donated and promised for the gift basket for Pastor Peter.

Council Corner

Sharon asked what topics should be in the Council Corner that is in the bulletins and newsletter. We should welcome Pastor Peter. Sarah suggested a link from our website to the video Pastor Peter made for us. We should send ideas to Scott.

Organizing Documents

Sharon said her goal is to organize our policies, procedures, continuing resolutions, and other documents on so that they may be easily accessed. She mentioned the procedures for burning the church prairies and for cleaning the baptismal font. Heather has created a table content of the documents on our server. We also need the date and location of each document.

Nominating Committee:

Paul said that the four vacancies on the Council are filled.

Adjournment

Paul moved and Jon seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm. Motion carried.

Doug led us in the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Licht, Secretary

Other Committee Reports:

Local Missions Committee

April 15, 2024, meeting minutes. Several spots are still available for working at the Brat Fest. See article in newsletter. We are planning a meal June 17 at Triangle ministry. There will be cemetery cleaning on McFarland Community Service Day April 27. Next meeting is May 13 at 6 PM.

CLM

Teacher Appreciation Week is 6-10 May. Kids are coloring pictures for the teachers. The committee will provide breakfast/other treats for the teachers on May 6th. Summer packets went out to families, and the schedule is full of fun activities.

Global Missions

There were presentations the Uganda mission during services April 6 & 7. The 11th well is now open. Walk for Water is September 21. Tom Eggum who is founder and president of H-4-K, will be visiting and preaching the weekend of Aug 24 & 25th. There is a Guatemala trip in June (not sponsored by MLC); anyone interested can sign-up with OWH. Available Global Missions budget funds will be sent to OWH to support needs in Guatemala. Christ the King catholic church is holding Tanzania night on July 20th (fundraiser to support their sister parish in Tanzania). Next meeting: June 17. Wayne said that the editor of the Thistle is interested in our Uganda mission trip, and she interviewed Ron Vandeburg and Bonnie Dirks. Ron supplied lots of photos. An article on this should appear in May. Erin wondered if the Walk for Water event needed Council approval. Sarah reminded us that we tabled the discussion on competing fundraisers. Carrie moved and Paul seconded a motion to approve Global Mission's Walk for Water fundraising. Motion carried. Next meeting: June 17

Stewardship

An article on giving was approved and subsequently appeared in the MLC newsletter. It will be an annual communication in conjunction with the annual spring giving approach. A proposal for MLC to begin participating in the Scripts gift card program through RaiseRight was shared with Finance on March 14. More information is desired, and a presentation will be made to Finance and shared with Council this summer. At the March 19 Council meeting, use of new "I Gave Online" pew cards was approved to be inclusive of multiple ways of giving to MLC. It will be implemented in late April. Stewardship recommends changing the approach to the annual pledge drive with pledge cards and focusing on highlighting needs, mission, and ministry as well as multiple ways of giving to MLC. Encouraging involvement (formerly "time and talent") will be emphasized in the fall, with a new approach and communication to be developed. There will be a Stewardship Mission Moment during all services the weekend of April 27 and 28 to update the congregation on new initiatives and approaches and to encourage commitment to giving.

Care of Creation

The COC worked with Sharon and Scott to develop a procedure for burning the church prairies. A prairie burn was held Monday, April 15 with 16 volunteers. Dead material was raked into the prairies and rain garden, the perimeters wet down and then buckets of water were placed around the edges. Each prairie patch was burned one at a time with the fire started downwind. Volunteers raked the fire along the edges until the entire patch was burned. Wafers were made on Friday, April 19 and used for communion on April 20 and 21. Next meeting is Thursday, April 25 at 5 PM.